

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A floor cleaning apparatus, comprising:
 - a nozzle assembly including a base section and an agitator section pivotally mounted to said base section;
 - a canister assembly pivotally connected to said nozzle assembly;
 - a suction generator carried by one of said nozzle assembly and said canister assembly; and
 - a dirt collector carried by one of said nozzle assembly and said canister assembly;

wherein said floor cleaning apparatus is characterized by;

said agitator section including an agitator housing, a first rotary agitator and a second rotary agitator; and
said first rotary agitator including a longitudinal axis, said agitator section pivoting relative to said base section along said longitudinal axis.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)
6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said base section of said nozzle assembly includes at least one ground engaging wheel.
7. (original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said canister assembly includes at least one ground engaging wheel.
8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said agitator section of said nozzle assembly includes at least one wheel.
9. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said at least one wheel of said agitator section is provided adjacent a leading edge of said agitator section.
10. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said canister assembly includes a control handle, said canister assembly being pivotally displaceable relative to said nozzle assembly between an upright, storage position and a use position.
11. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further including means for biasing said agitator section toward said surface being cleaned.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further including at least one spring for biasing said agitator section toward said surface being cleaned.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, further including means for transmitting power from said suction generator to said first rotary agitator.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said means includes a belt.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said means includes a gear box assembly.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further including an agitator drive motor carried on said nozzle assembly.

17. (currently amended) A vacuum cleaner, comprising:

a main housing including a plurality of wheels for engaging and rolling over a surface to be cleaned;

a suction generator; and

an agitator section pivotally mounted to said main housing, said agitator section including an agitator housing, a first rotary agitator and a second rotary agitator and

said first rotary agitator including a longitudinal axis, said agitator section pivoting relative to
said main housing along said longitudinal axis.

18. (original) The vacuum cleaner of claim 17, further including means for biasing said agitator section toward the surface to be cleaned.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (canceled)

24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) The vacuum cleaner of ~~claim 19~~claim 17, further including a pair of brackets for pivotally mounting said agitator section to said main housing.

26. (original) The vacuum cleaner of claim 25, wherein each bracket of said pair of brackets includes an aperture for receiving an end of said first rotary agitator.

27. (original) The vacuum cleaner of claim 26, wherein each bracket of said pair of brackets includes at least one lug and one fastener for securing each bracket to said main housing.

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

Specification Amendments:

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 3 of the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

U.S. Patent 6,772,474 to Nishikori et al, Application Serial No. ~~10/090,656 filed on March 5, 2002~~, entitled Upright Vacuum Cleaner With Spring Loaded Nozzle, discloses an upright vacuum cleaner incorporating a spring loaded nozzle wherein a downforce is placed on the entire nozzle assembly in order to provide more efficient and vibration free cleaning. The present invention relates to an upright vacuum cleaner or other floor care cleaning equipment (such as a power nozzle of a canister vacuum cleaner or an extractor) incorporating an agitator assembly that is pivotally mounted to the main housing or base section of a nozzle assembly that rides on wheels traveling over the surface to be cleaned.

Drawing Amendments:

The attached drawings sheets include changes to Figures 1, 3 and 4. More specifically, Figure 1 has been amended to incorporate reference numeral 42 generally designating the housing of the agitator section 14 and reference numeral 44 referring to the upper portion or hood of that housing.

Figure 3 has been amended to add a reference number 46 for the lower portion or plate, reference number 60 for the power transmission, reference number 96 for the notch in the top edge 98 of the bracket 76 and reference number 98. In addition, the lead lines have been extended and redirected where appropriate to designate all structures in the drawing figure.

With respect to figure 4, the pulley 72 has been properly shown and the reference line from 72 has been properly directed to that pulley. All drawing sheets have been properly labeled as "replacement sheet" in the margin and are submitted for the review and approval of the Examiner.